

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fingerprint identification device to identify fingerprints, comprising:
 - a fingerprint reader unit to read a fingerprint to be detected for outputting a fingerprint data;
 - an image data processing unit to correct or compress said ~~input~~ fingerprint data received from said fingerprint reader;
 - a feature extraction unit to extract image features out of said corrected or compressed input fingerprint data received from said image data processing unit;
 - a database unit to record a fingerprint database provided in advance;
 - a fingerprint comparing unit that identifies said extracted image features received from said feature extraction unit by comparing with fingerprint data stored in said fingerprint database recorded in said database unit;
 - a temporary recording unit to temporally record a temporary fingerprint data of said fingerprint; and
 - a user recording unit to record said temporary fingerprint data transmitted from said temporary recording unit,

wherein said temporary fingerprint data to be recorded in said temporary recording unit is said fingerprint data received from said fingerprint reader unit, and said temporary recording unit ignores said temporary fingerprint data in said temporary recording unit when said fingerprint comparing unit identifies said ~~input~~ fingerprint, and further, said temporary recording unit automatically sends said temporary fingerprint data to said user recording unit for storing said temporary fingerprint data only when said fingerprint comparing unit does not identify said ~~input~~ fingerprint, in order to thereafter narrow down a location of malfunction in said fingerprint identification device.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, wherein said temporary fingerprint data to be recorded in said temporary recording unit comprises said fingerprint data received from said fingerprint reader ~~unit, and unit, and~~ said temporary recording unit ignores said temporary fingerprint data when said fingerprint comparing unit identifies said ~~input~~ fingerprint, and further said temporary recording unit automatically sends said temporary fingerprint data to said user recording unit for storing said temporary fingerprint data which includes a raw fingerprint data, only when said fingerprint comparing unit does not identify said ~~input~~ fingerprint, in order to thereafter narrow down a location of malfunction in said fingerprint identification device.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, wherein said temporary fingerprint data to be recorded in said temporary recording unit comprises said corrected or compressed fingerprint data received from said image data processing ~~unit, and unit, and~~ said temporary recording unit ignores said temporary fingerprint data when said fingerprint comparing unit identifies said ~~input~~ fingerprint, and further said temporary recording unit automatically sends said temporary fingerprint data to said user recording unit for storing said temporary fingerprint data which includes said corrected or compressed fingerprint data resulting in compact data size, only when said fingerprint comparing unit does not identify said ~~input~~ fingerprint, in order to thereafter narrow down a location of malfunction in said fingerprint identification device.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, wherein said temporary fingerprint data to be recorded in said temporary recording unit comprises said extracted image features received from said feature extraction unit, and said

temporary recording unit ignores said temporary fingerprint data when said fingerprint comparing unit identifies said ~~input~~ fingerprint, and further said temporary recording unit automatically sends said temporary fingerprint data to said user recording unit for storing said temporary fingerprint data which includes said extracted image features resulting in compact data size, only when said fingerprint comparing unit does not identify said ~~input~~ fingerprint, in order to thereafter narrow down a location of malfunction in said fingerprint identification device.

8. (Original) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, further comprising a date counter that provides a date record used to generate a recording history.

9. (Original) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, wherein said device is used for access control.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and recording fingerprints ~~finger prints~~, comprising the steps of :

recording reference fingerprints in advance in a database;

inputting a fingerprint to be detected;

processing said input fingerprint by correcting or compressing said input fingerprint;

extracting image features out of said corrected or compressed input fingerprint;

comparing said extracted image features to be detected to the reference fingerprints in the ~~data base~~ database;

temporally recording a temporary fingerprint data which is either a raw fingerprint data, corrected or compressed fingerprint data, or said extracted image features; and

automatically recording said temporary fingerprint data in a permanent user recording unit only when the input fingerprint to be detected does not match any of the reference fingerprints in the database in order to thereafter narrow down a location of malfunction in said steps of said fingerprint identifying and recording method.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (New) The fingerprint identification device according to claim 1, wherein said temporary fingerprint data stored in said temporary recording unit comprises a copy of the fingerprint data that is not used by the fingerprint comparing unit.

13. (New) The method of identifying and recording fingerprints according to claim 10, wherein said temporary fingerprint data that is recorded comprises a copy of the fingerprint that is not used for comparing.